

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/730,340

Examiner

Devona E. Faulk

Applicant(s)

OSAKABE ET AL.

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 7/10/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11,12,14 and 15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 7/10/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. The applicant agreed to an examiner's amendment to place the remaining claims in allowable form.
3. Claims 1-10 are cancelled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daryl K. Neff (Reg. 38,253) on 9/21/2006.

The claims are to be amended as follows:

Claim 11, line 12: after "portions", delete "related to" and insert - - containing data relating to the positioning of speakers for - -.

Claim 11, line 13: after "section", delete "indicating a spatial placement" and insert - - representative of a quantity of the variable length data portions and of a length

- -.

Claim 11, line 14: after "of the data", delete "within the data transmission section of the second data unit" and insert - - contained in each of the variable length data portions - -.

Claims 13 and 16: cancel.

Claim 14, line 8: after "portions", delete "related to" and insert - - containing data relating to the positioning of speakers for - -.

Claim 14, line 9: after "section", delete "indicating a spatial placement" and insert - - representative of a quantity of the variable length data portions and of a length - -.

Claim 14, line 10: after "of the data", delete "within the data transmission section of the second data unit" and insert - - contained in each of the variable length data portions - -.

5. Claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art Oguro, JP 07-320411, discloses a digital signal processing device comprising reproducing multi-channel audio signal processing in a VCR format and various speaker layouts. Prior art Sato et al., US 5,802,017, discloses a method for isochronously transmitting data on a predetermined bus line which supports asynchronous transmission of control data between devices and arranging the audio channel data for each of a plurality of audio channels in a plurality of audio channels in a plurality of first data units, each of the first data units having a predetermined data length and setting up a second data section between a label section and a data transmission section and placing identification data in the sub-label section, the

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identification data indicating a spatial placement of the data of the plurality of audio channels in the data transmission section. Prior art Oh et al., US 6,704,793, discloses a data transmission protocol in image communication device. Prior art Oguro, US 5,615,056, discloses an apparatus for recording and reproducing a digital video and audio signal. Prior art Osakabe, EP 0 762 684, discloses a data transmission method for digital audio signals.

The prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious setting up a second data unit including a data transmission section having a plurality of variable length data portions containing data relating to the positioning of speakers for respective ones of the plurality of audio channels and a sub-label section representative of a quantity of the variable length data portions and of a length of the data contained in each of the variable length data portions. Therefore, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a method for isochronously transmitting data and a data transmission apparatus as claimed.

Claims 12 and 15 are allowed due to dependency on claims 11 and 14 respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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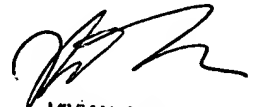
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848.

The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2615. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DEF


VIVIAN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

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